

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (New): A method for producing a tubular component provided at each of its two ends with a threaded element including a male or female thread and a makeup stop abutment that can form part of a string of tubular components in which two consecutive components are mutually assembled by connecting the male thread of one threaded element of one component into the female thread of one threaded element of another component, the corresponding stop abutments coming into mutual bearing contact, the method comprising:

- a) mounting the component in a chuck of a lathe;
- b) machining a first threaded element at one end of the component using the lathe;
- c) screwing a first orientation gauge onto the first threaded element, the gauge including a thread that matches that of the first threaded element and a makeup stop abutment and having a mark on its external periphery, to bring the stop abutments of the threaded element and the orientation gauge into mutual bearing contact;
- d) drawing an orientation mark axially aligned with the mark on the orientation gauge on the external periphery of the component;
- e) revolving the component in the lathe chuck during which the component is so disposed that its orientation mark is located in the same angular position with respect to the chuck as in the drawing (d);
- f) machining a second threaded element at the other end of the component by the lathe, using a machining tool that is displaced with respect to the frame of the lathe under the

control of a program, from a given position during which the starting position of the tool is defined after at least one preliminary test;

g) screwing a second orientation gauge including a thread matching that of the second threaded element and a makeup stop abutment and having a mark on its external periphery onto the second threaded element to bring the stop abutments of the threaded element and the orientation gauge into mutual bearing contact,

the orientation gauge used during the screwing g) being the first orientation gauge if the threads of the first and second threaded elements are both male or both female, or being of a matching type to the first orientation gauge and having its mark axially aligned with the mark of the first orientation gauge when the first and second orientation gauges are screwed into abutment if one of the threaded elements is male and the other is female; and

h) comparing an angular offset between the marks on the component and the orientation gauge with a pre-defined set value Q and a new starting position of the machining tool is defined as being axially offset with respect to the initial position by a quantity determined as a function of the direction and amplitude of any existing deviation.

Claim 14 (New): A method according to claim 13, wherein the axial offset of the starting position of the machining tool comprises a quantity:

$$C = P \times \frac{\alpha + Q}{2\pi}$$

P being the thread pitch and  $\alpha$  being the value of said deviation measured in radians.

Claim 15 (New): A method according to claim 14, wherein the quantity C is calculated using the formula:

$$C = \frac{P}{\pi} \times \left( \frac{B}{D} + \frac{Q}{2} \right)$$

B being the length of the subtending circular arc on a peripheral surface of the component with diameter D, between the mark thereon and the axial half-plane containing the mark of the orientation gauge, the arc having a value of  $\alpha$  radians.

Claim 16 (New): A method according to claim 13, wherein the orientation mark of the component comprises a first elementary mark drawn in the axial alignment of the mark of the orientation gauge in the region of the first threaded element, and a second elementary mark then drawn in the same angular position as the first elementary mark in the region of the second threaded element.

Claim 17 (New): A method according to Claim 13, wherein the first threaded element comprises a male thread.

Claim 18 (New): A method according to Claim 13, wherein the tubular component comprises a great length pipe provided at each end with a male threaded element and a short coupling provided at each end with a female threaded element, a male threaded element being connected into position in a female threaded element of the coupling.

Claim 19 (New): A method according to Claim 13, wherein the tubular component is a great length pipe provided at one end with a male threaded element and at the other end with a female threaded element.

Claim 20 (New): A method according to Claim 13, wherein the two ends of the tubular component are provided with threaded elements of the same type.

Claim 21 (New): A string formed from tubular components as can be obtained by the method defined in Claim 13, in which two consecutive components are mutually assembled by connecting the male thread of one threaded element of one component into the female thread of one threaded element of the other component, the corresponding stop abutments coming into mutual bearing contact, the components having respective orientation marks on their external periphery the angular offset of which does not exceed  $10^\circ$  between two consecutive components.

Claim 22 (New): A tubular component provided at its two ends with threaded elements comprising a male thread and a female thread respectively and respective makeup stop abutments, as can be obtained by the method defined in Claim 13, having an orientation mark on its external periphery and in which the threaded elements are machined so that when its male thread is made up into the female thread of an identical tubular component by bringing the corresponding stop abutments into mutual bearing contact, the angular offset between the orientation marks of the two components does not exceed  $10^\circ$ .

Claim 23 (New): A tubular component according to claim 23, wherein the angular offset between the transverse cross sections of the male and female threads in radial planes located at the same axial distance from the abutments respectively associated therewith does not exceed  $10^\circ$ .

Claim 24 (New): A string or tubular component according to claim 23, wherein the angular offset does not exceed  $5^\circ$ .